(iv) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, has been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.

(v) Technology Mission for Cotton has been launched for initiating focussed steps for boosting production, productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products.

(vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vii) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty of 5%.

(viii) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.

(ix) A special package of incentives for the textile sector has been announced in the Budget 2002-03.

Enhancing the coverage of TWRS

1893. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to enhance the coverage of Textile Workers' Rehabilitation scheme (TWRS);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of textile workers likely to be benefited from the scheme; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to resolve other long pending demands of textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government has decided to enhance the eligible wage ceiling from Rs. 2500/- per month to Rs. 3500/- per month under the Textile

Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS). The enhanced ceiling would be applicable to all eligible textile units which are closed on or after 5th February, 2002. (c) The fresh steps taken to resolve other long pending demands of textile industry include:

(i) National Textile Policy - 2000 - Government announced the National Textile Policy - 2000 (NTP—2000) in order to facilitate the textile industry to attain and sustain a pre-eminent global standing in the manufacture and export of clothing.

(ii) Technology Mission on Cotton - To improve the availability of quality cotton at reasonable prices, the Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton during 1999-2000, which has 4 mini-missions which are expected to bring about all round improvement in the production, productivity & quality of cotton through research, transfer of technology and improvement in the marketing and raw cotton processing sectors.

(iii) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme- Since April 1, 1999, for five years Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile and jute industries. The scheme seeks to reduce cost of capital by reimbursement of 5 percentage points on interest availed for modernisation needs of the textile and jute industries. The Government has now decided to provide, with immediate effect, an option to this Small Scale Textile and Jute Industries either to avail 12% upfront Credit Linked Capital Subsidy or the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(iv) The Government has de-reserved the woven segmeat of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also announced the de-reservation of knitted segment in the Budget 2002-03.

(v) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.

(vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the textile industry.

(vii) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional customs duty.

NTC mills closed during last three years

1894. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills, State-wise, number of workers employed and financial performance of each of these mills during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of these mills were closed down during the last three years;

(c) if so, the names of these mills and the number of workers rendered unemployed thereby; and

(d) whether these workers were paid their wages and other statutory dues; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) A statement indicating NTC mills, State-wise, number of workers employed as on 31.12.2001 and financial performance of these mills during the last three years is enclosed *(see* below).

(b) No NTC mills was closed down during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.